(b) what is the amount distributed under the scheme during the above period, year-wise and district-wise; and

(c) what is the number of applications received, the number of applications cleared and the number of applications rejected during the above period in Orissa.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) was launched from 1st September, 1986. Under the Scheme, not only the unemployed youth but also persons belonging to all the age groups living below the subsistence level in urban areas irrespective of vocation pursued by them, are eligible for bank loans for improvement of their economic conditions subject to the fulfilment of eligibility criteria laid down under the Scheme.

Reserve Bank of India has reported that the existing data reporting system from banks does not generate the District-wise information. However, details regarding target, number of applications received, sanctioned, disbursed and rejected along with amount sanctioned and disbursed in the State of Orissa during 1986-87 under SEPUP were as follows:

(1) Target	8963
(2) *No. of applications*	
(a) received	10983
(b) sanctioned	8628
(c) disbursed	6780
(d) rejected	2142
(3) *Amount*	
sanctioned	Rs. 333.48 lakhs
disbursed	Rs. 290 93 lakhs

Involvement of Villagers in the Management of Forests

778. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve a policy which will enable the villagers to manage and protect the forests in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The following measures have been identified and recommended to the State Governments to ensure participation of villagers in the management and protection of forests:

(i) Steps should be taken to provide to the villagers living near forest areas forest products essential for their bonafide needs, such as fuelwood, fodder, bamboo, and small timber through Government depots.

(ii) Every village should have a plan for regeneration of forests and restoration of ecological balance. The plan will be drawn up and implemented with full participation of village panchayats and other such bodies.

(iii) Implementation of 'tree patta' scheme to ensure right to usufructs over trees planted and tended by individuals.

(iv) Involvement of voluntary agencies/cooperatives in the implementation of the tree plantation Schemes.

(v) Involvement of cooperative organisations in collection of forest produce, particularly minor forest produce.

(vi) Free distribution of seedlings to weaker sections of the society to take up tree planting on their own lands, or land made available for this purpose.